



State Senator • 19th District

Mark SCHAUER

News From Your State Capitol

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR ALL OF US

There's a lot more to being a State Senator than what goes on in Lansing. Being a good legislator also means attending to the needs of the constituents and communities that you represent. Senator Schauer spends much of his time responding to constituent requests and engaging state and federal officials over local concerns. This newsletter is dedicated to giving the people of Calhoun and Jackson Counties a sense of what issues Senator Schauer has been working on and just what goes into being a state legislator.

Leaders Hope to Fend Off Future Base Closings

This summer, Senator Schauer helped bring state officials to the Battle Creek area to tour local defense facilities that might be targeted for closing. Senator Schauer wanted to make sure key government officials understood how important these facilities are to our national security and to our local economy.

The Senator's efforts are motivated by Governor Granholm's goal of creating homeland security-related jobs and are in preparation for the 2005 federal base realignment and closure process, which will look to cut

costs by closing down or shrinking existing bases and facilities. Among the facilities that Senator Schauer is working to protect are the Army National Guard Fort Custer Training Center, the Michigan Air National Guard Base, and the Hart-Doyle-Inouye Federal Center.

"It is important that key decision makers fully appreciate how important these facilities are to our national security and how damaging it would be to our local economy if they were closed," said Senator Schauer.

How To Reach

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Economic Development Director Joins Senator Schauer on District Tour

Senator Schauer arranged a four-city tour of the district recently with Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Director Don Jakeway. The tour was designed to help Director Jakeway get to know the people in the front lines of economic development in Calhoun and Jackson Counties.

Senator Schauer and Director Jakeway toured Jackson, Albion, Marshall, and Battle Creek and met with local officials, economic developers, and business leaders. The tour

helped local business and community leaders get a better understanding of the services offered by MEDC. In return, the visit helped Director Jakeway better understand the economic potential of our area.

"By working in a collaborative way, we can better provide our local entrepreneurs with the support they need to create jobs and grow our economy," said Senator Schauer.



Michigan Economic Development Corporation Director Don Jakeway joins Senator Schauer on a tour of Albion, Marshall, Jackson, and Battle Creek.



Dear Neighbor,

It's been a challenging, yet rewarding, year in state government.

As you know, our state has been struggling to overcome a significant budget deficit. As we wrap up efforts to balance the state's fiscal year 2005 budget, we are completing a process that began last winter in which expected state revenues were \$1.3 billion short of anticipated spending.

The Michigan House and Senate have been in session throughout much of the summer, attempting to determine what measures to take in order to eliminate the deficit. While making difficult spending cuts, I am proud to have joined Governor Granholm in fighting to protect our schools, health care for our vulnerable neighbors, and initiatives to create jobs and grow our economy.

Fortunately, I do have good news to share as well. Kellogg Company announced that it will relocate its U.S. Snack Foods Division headquarters from Illinois to Battle Creek. That means another 300 good-paying jobs are on the way to our area! I helped pass a critical piece of legislation allowing the refinancing of local bonds so that the Kellogg relocation could move forward. I have long supported the economic development tools that were used by state and local officials to secure the deal.

Adding to the good news, Dawn Foods recently chose Jackson County as the location for their world headquarters. That will add an additional 400 jobs to our area. Good jobs lead to stronger families and stronger communities.

We are also working hard to protect our existing jobs. We recently concluded a district tour to convince state officials of the value of existing military bases and defense facilities in our area. Future closings are always a risk, but Governor Granholm and I are dealing with the threat in a proactive manner that will serve our area well.

This has been a challenging time for all of us in state government, but I remain excited about the potential for our area and our state.

Sincerely,

Senator Mark Schauer

Democratic Floor Leader • 19th District

Schauer Hosts 2nd Annual NAACP Capitol Day

Senator Schauer welcomed NAACP leaders to Lansing recently for the second annual NAACP Capitol Day. The annual day is an opportunity for local NAACP leaders to discuss a wide range of public policy issues with state leaders.



Senator Schauer Named "Public Official of the Year"

Senator Mark Schauer was named "Public Official of the Year" by Habitat for Humanity of Michigan. Former President Jimmy Carter and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm were on hand to present Senator Schauer with the recognition for his efforts.

NEWS & NOTES

Regional Wastewater Negotiations Advance

Senator Schauer has been facilitating negotiations between the City of Jackson and a number of neighboring townships that would allow for the expansion of sewer and water services into those outlying areas. If the negotiations are successful, the expansion of wastewater services will dramatically improve the economic development potential of Jackson County. "Great progress has been made, and we hope to have a final agreement announced in the near future," said Senator Schauer.

Family Resource Centers Open in Area Schools

Senator Schauer helped to set up Family Independence Agency (FIA) extension offices in two area schools. FIA offices will be opened in Washington Gardner Middle School in Albion and T.A. Wilson School in Jackson. Securing the Washington Gardner site became a high priority for Senator Schauer because of the closure of the FIA office in Albion.

Environmentally Safe Roofing Technology to Be Tested

The Battle Creek Police Department will be trying a new roofing technology that includes natural ground cover. Senator Schauer helped to secure the "green roof" grant to pay for the new technology which uses plant material to make a roof that has double the life expectancy, absorbs pollutants and rainwater, and reduces energy costs. Because of the grant, the new roof will cost the city \$70,000 less than a conventional roof.

Grant Will Help Create Downtown Battle Creek Housing

Downtown loft-type housing in Battle Creek will soon become a reality thanks to a Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) grant that Senator Schauer helped secure. Consistent with Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative, downtown housing is part of a revitalization strategy to help downtown Battle Creek become a vibrant, attractive place for individuals to work, live, and recreate.

I-69 Emergency Pass-Through Lane Approved

While extensive reconstruction work of I-69 is underway south of Marshall, local officials thought it made sense to install a pass-through lane to allow emergency vehicles to cross over between north- and south-bound lanes to quickly respond to accidents or problems. Senator Schauer agreed and, after urging from the Senator, so did the Michigan Department of Transportation.

M-60 Improvements Finalized

In response to a request from Homer business leaders, Senator Schauer worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation to commit to two phases of improvements to M-60 in Homer and Albion townships. The first phase of preservation work – 3.1 miles of new asphalt – was completed in June. The second phase of upgrades will proceed in 2007. Those improvements will be made to the entire 4.6-mile length of M-60 in Homer and Albion and will include shoulder and guard rail improvements, as well as new pavement.

Granholm, Schauer Proclaim Jackson a "Cool City"

In Senator Schauer's first two years in office, his top priority for the City of Jackson has been the completion of the Armory Arts Project – a \$10.6 million redevelopment of an old industrial site near the Fairgrounds into a center for arts and culture, including 39 affordable loft apartments – and designation of Jackson as a "Cool City." After multiple visits by state government leaders, including Governor Granholm, the Governor announced that Jackson would become one of only

17 cities to be selected as "Cool Cities" and would receive a \$100,000 catalyst grant to help the Armory Arts Project. Jackson's project competed against 149 other proposed projects around the state and won. The "Cool Cities" initiative, part of the Governor's economic development plan for Michigan, is designed to help foster the development of vibrant, attractive cities and urban centers.

The Armory Arts Project is the centerpiece of Jackson's

"Cool City" initiative and is linked to 16 other efforts already in progress, including the renovation of the Partnership Park Neighborhood and the expansion of the downtown Carnegie Branch of the Jackson District Library. With the outstanding leadership of the collaborative leadership that is in place, Senator Schauer is optimistic about economic development prospects for all of Jackson County.



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Coney Challenge Promotes Jackson Icon

One fun highlight of the recent legislative session was the first-ever Capitol Coney Challenge sponsored by Senator Schauer. The event was a great way to help promote one of our local culinary icons, the Jackson-style Coney dog. Legislators, staff, and the public were invited to sample Coney dogs from around the state, including three entries from the Jackson area.

It was a fun day at the Capitol that helped to promote an important business in the Jackson area.



We Are Here to Help

Senator Schauer and his staff are here to help you with any problems you might be experiencing with state or local government. They help thousands of constituents every year to cut through bureaucratic red tape and resolve problems. If you have a concern or a question, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Publications Available

As a service to you, I'm pleased to offer the following publications from my office. Please check the appropriate box(es) below, fill in your name and address in the space provided, and return this entire coupon to: **State Senator Mark Schauer, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536** or you may **fax your order to (517) 373-2964**.

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